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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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Winter, 1999

President's Message

-Helena F. Rodrigues, D.A.

As we look forward to the new millennium, most media reports are focused on future expectations. Fatalists guarantee the end of the world, while futurists predict life as a virtual experience. Other reports have cast a backward glance at what was happening 100 years ago, at the turn of the last century. Some fascinating stories have emerged, specifically about people and their way of life.

Last week I received a very interesting stack of papers, which included a history of Johnson & Wales University along with information about the founders of this institution, Gertrude Johnson and Mary Wales. I want to share a portion of their early years with you.

In the final years of the 19th century, these two determined young women were graduated from the Pennsylvania State Normal School (now Millersville University). School records indicate that Gertrude Johnson was born in 1876 in Norristown, Pennsylvania, while Mary Tiffany Wales was born in 1874 in Wilmington. Alumni records state that they both taught in public schools in Pennsylvania and

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Library Profile: Hope Library

History:

Hope Library is located in the heart of historic Hope Village, across from the Hope Elementary School. Originally housed in the basement of a local church, the library was able to move to its present location due to the generosity of Miss Alice M. Howland, the librarian, and the efforts of the Hope Library Association, of which Miss Howland was the first president. The Hope Library Association formed in 1944 with the purpose of improving the library facilities for the Hope

community. The original site for a new building was to be donated by the Methodist Episcopal Church. However, in 1965 Miss Howland gave permission to use some of the land donated by her for "public park and recreation uses" for the new Hope Library building. The Town of Scituate gave the deed to the library association on the condition the building be completed within two years. In September of 1966 the library was dedicated.

In 1989, due to the growing population, Hope Library began a much-needed addition, doubling its size. Mounted on a granite pedestal with a cobblestone terrace is one of the original Hope Furnace Cannons, forged from the Hope Furnace Foundry, "dedicated to the men and women of the Village of Hope, Rhode Island, who have served their country in time of conflict." Today, Hope

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RILINK: The Missing Link? By Linda Wood

RILINK, or Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids, is a virtual library for resource sharing and interlibrary loans among Rhode Island schools. It can be viewed on the Web at: www.rilink.org.

RILINK is an innovative program that began in 1998 with an LSTA grant awarded by OLIS through RHILINET to promote resource sharing among school libraries, and eventually with other Rhode Island libraries. Linda Wood, now retired from South Kingstown High School and Paul Venancio at Middletown Schools were the two librarians who initiated the project.

In November 1998 the two pilot schools, Middletown High School and South Kingstown High School, began sharing their resources. Six months later nearly a book a day was traveling between the two schools. A second LSTA grant was awarded in 1999 that allowed 12 additional schools to join RILINK.

An Advisory Board made up of participating RILINK members, representatives of OLIS, GSLIS and public libraries is the governing body. The position of part time Director of RILINK was funded by a one year grant from OLIS. Linda Wood was hired in July for this position. Linda can be reached at rid25385@ride.ri.net or by phone at 377-2820.

RILINK's mission is to assist schools in their efforts to close the gaps in student learning by giving K-12 students, faculty and staff increased access to materials. Requests for interlibrary loan is through email and delivery is provided by the Rhode Island Library Network (RHILINET) courier system. All RILINK schools are members of RHILINET.

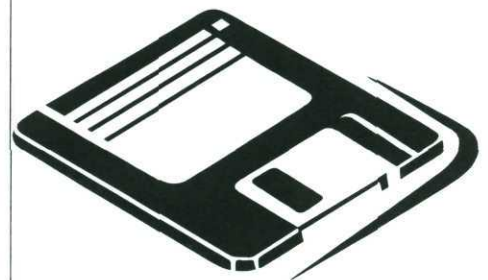
One of the most innovative features of the software being used is the ability to link from the print/nonprint record directly to K-12 appropriate Internet sites. Known as the "856 tag," these links take the students from a print source to a page of related Internet sites maintained on the vendor's server. The links are selected as appropriate for students and checked daily by the vendor for availability. For most school librarians this direct link to the Internet provides order to the chaos of the Internet and also a selection of materials that are kid-friendly.

The East Bay Educational Collaborative in Warren provides administrative support and serves as the umbrella nonprofit Local Educational Agency (LEA) for RILINK. But what is RILINK's future? Will it join the other libraries in the state as part of an overall virtual library for Rhode Island? Or will it be melded into the Department of Education? The answers to these questions are being explored as RILINK searches for funding which will help bring all Rhode Island school libraries into the

statewide database.

By the way, there are 36 school districts in Rhode Island and over 500 schools (public and private). There are more than 165,000 students. This is a large number of people who have not yet had the full advantage of tapping into the vast Rhode Island resources available for interlibrary loan. Since we know that no one local library can meet all the needs of its patrons, RILINK provides an answer to the missing link of school library materials.

Automating Rhode Island school libraries is a top priority. A workshop will be held January 26, 2000 to help the "have not" schools plan for the automation of their collections. Over 40 persons have registered for the workshop.



RILINK member schools in 1999 are:

Barrington High School
Cranston East High School
East Providence High School
Kickemuit Middle School
Mercymount Country Day
Middletown High School
Mt. Hope High School
Narragansett High School
Ponaganset High School

Continued On Page 7

Hope Library (Cont.)

Library is able to offer its growing community a number of services, including the latest bestsellers for adults, award-winning books for children, public access to the Internet, use of its Meeting Room, up-to-date reference materials, and a growing collection of audiobooks, videos and compact discs. We also provide access to materials not owned by the Hope Library through the Cooperating Libraries Automated Network and other interlibrary loan formats.

Circulation Services:

Circulating services encompass all formats of materials with varied policies. Books and non-fiction videos are loaned for three weeks. New books, audiobooks, compact discs and magazines are loaned for two weeks. Fiction videos are loaned for one week and reference material does not circulate. Zoo passes are available during the year and must be returned the next day. Fines are assessed on videos and compact discs only, however, donations are encouraged on all other overdue material. Videos are \$1.00 per day with a maximum fine of \$10.00 per video. Compact discs are \$1.00 per day with a maximum fine of \$5.00 per disc. Most materials can be renewed, except new books, videos and magazines, if there is no reserve on the item. Phone renewals are accepted. Please make note that the Hope Library subscribes and adheres to the policies as set forth through CLAN, therefore, any patron having overdue fines totaling more than \$5.00 or needing to make restitution for a lost or damaged book will be restricted from checking out materials or using the computers.

The library currently has six computers for public use. Two public access terminals for CLAN functions and four PC's for Internet and word processing use. All patrons must sign a computer-use agreement form in order to use the PC's. A parent must accompany children below the age of eighteen and the parent's signature is required on the agreement before use. Copies are available at a cost of \$.25 per page for black print or \$1.00 per page for color. Although disks may be purchased at a cost of \$1.00 once the disk leaves the library you may not re-use it. However, the library would be glad to hold the disk at the circulation desk for future use.

Programs:

The library also provides many programs. Some of our repeated programs include: story hours for 2-5 year olds, babysitting classes, yoga, summer reading program, TV-turnoff week, Internet and Microsoft applications tutorial sessions, annual holiday program, seasonal craft programs for children, craft programs for adults, monthly book discussions for adults, and summer book discussions for young adults.

Other Services:

The library has a community meeting room that is not only used for library programs and functions, but is also used by members of the community and other community organizations. Use of this room is free and is reserved on a first-come first serve basis. However, we do not advocate use of this room to enhance the operation of a business, therefore, if a fee is imposed we require that the

majority of the proceeds be donated to the library.

Fax and photocopying services are available for a fee. The cost to fax a document is \$2.00 per page and the cost to receive a fax is \$.50 per page. Photocopies are \$.10 for an 8 1/2" X 11" and \$.15 for 8 1/2" X 14". We do not provide transparencies nor do we permit the use of transparencies in our machine.

Notary services are also available at no cost, but donations are encouraged. Recently, in response to the needs of the young adults in the community the library has been creating an on-line homework center. This center, once completed, will include a subject guide with direct links to professionally evaluated web-sites and a list of reference material owned by the Hope Library to be used as homework tools.

Future Plans:

The Hope Library is sympathetic to the needs of the community and is prepared to meet those needs. Currently, three-fourths of the population of the Town of Scituate consists of families with children. The Hope Library, in response to this and the expected increase in population, is planning yet another expansion converting storage space into a new and improved children's room. The current children's room will then become a much-needed young adult area. In keeping with the Hope Library mission statement, this addition along with the increase of our computer services should provide the community and surrounding communities with a facility and services that will bring us well into the 21st century.

People in the News...

Deborah Barchi recently was appointed Director at the Barrington PL. **Lara Bennett** is Branch Librarian at the Wanskuck Branch of Providence PL.

Lynn Blanchette is the Director of the Coventry PL.

Jackie Cooper recently was named Collection Development Librarian at Providence PL.

Heather Field is the Director of the Ashaway Library in Hopkinton.

Janice Gaspar is Head of Technical Services at Providence PL.

Mary Ann Hunt is the Branch Librarian at the Robert Beverly Hale branch of the South Kingstown Library System.

Bill Keach is Branch Librarian at the Smith Hill branch of Providence PL.

Barbara Kenney is Branch Librarian at Providence PL's Washington Park Branch.

Al Klyberg recently retired as Executive Director of the RI Historical Society to take a similar position for the Heritage Harbor project.

Pam Laurenzo is now Children's Librarian at the Mount Pleasant Branch of the Providence PL.

Richard Leduc, Library Program Manager in charge of Talking Books Plus at the Office of Library and Information Services, recently retired.

Karen Mellor recently joined the staff at the Office of Library and Information Services as a Library Program Specialist I.

Ann Poulos is Head of Business Services at Providence PL.

Lorna Rodio is now a Reference Librarian at Providence PL.

Lynn Spinelli has joined the staff of Providence PL as a Public Relations Specialist.

In Memoriam:

Deborah Lynden, former Head of Technical Services at Providence Public Library, passed away in October.

A Chat With David A. King of the Champlin Foundations

After the shock to the library world's system because of an article in the Providence Journal, Derryl (De) Johnson called Mr. King to get the real picture of what is happening at Champlin.

Up front, David King said that he had the "best job in the world" and that it was still "great fun". He assured me that he shall remain Executive Director of the Champlin Foundations for the foreseeable future. He admitted that the article was faulty but that it was truthful when it alluded to a small change at Champlin: new staff was coming. King heartily assured De, as a representative of the library community, that the objectives of the Foundation have not changed. Libraries are still a very important element of their funding. The core of funding is to libraries (22%, over \$5,000,000 in 1999), education (20%, \$4,600,000), open space & conservation (14%, nearly \$3,300,000), and health & youth fitness (27%, over \$6,100,000). Mr. King sees little change in the funding priorities during the staffing enhancements.

Mr. King voiced the Foundations objective to bring in talented new people who are also younger than himself because the organization needs more staff. He reminds us all that he is a touch over 70. The Champlin Foundations, he points out, are the largest private philanthropic resource in Rhode Island and one of the largest in New England. It requires more people to manage than ever before. He welcomes the energy and spirit of the new people coming on board. The one mentioned in that infamous article of the Providence Journal was Keith H. Lang. He was leaving the Chafee Washington office to work at Champlin upon Senator Chafee's retirement, but came to Champlin ahead of schedule when the good

Senator died. Because Frank Carter died June 12, 1999, leaving a vacancy on the Distribution Committee, Keith Lang was doubly welcome. He is now a member of the Distribution Committee. The other new person on the staff is Tim Gorham, a lawyer and the son of John Gorham (a member of the Distribution Committee). Both Keith and Tim began their new responsibilities in January 2000. Both are readers, as are their families. Both have the similar objectives to those of the other members of the Champlin Foundations.

When asked how the bond between Champlin and the libraries of Rhode Island came to be, Mr. King mentioned two strong starting points. The first was when he was a teenager during World War II employed at R. I. News Co. where he spent many of his break-times reading in a corner. Libraries, education, and a love of life-long learning resulted. The second was in 1983 when Anna Lee Bundy of Providence Public Library approached him requesting funding for the conversion of their library records to MARC. The cost of that project, at that time, was astronomical, but after taking a large gulp, touring P. P. L. and the role model P. P. L. wished to emulate, and doing their homework – the funding went forward. The rest is history! Mr. King mentions that CLAN is where it is today because of that first venture and, more recently, to the articulate and ardently sincere Peter Bennett.

Because of the grants over the years from Champlin, David King believes that each and every library in Rhode Island, from the smallest to the largest, is now as big as New York Public Library. And, he adds with a chuckle, a lot more convenient!

Champlin Foundations has a web site which we can visit at fdncenter.org/grantmaker/champlin. The Champlin e-mail address is Champlinfndns@worldnet.att.net. Thank you Champlin! Thank you, Dave King! Welcome, Keith and Tim! Champlin gets better every day!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CROSS' MILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Cross' Mills Public Library, built 1913, and the church land donated by B. Cross. It was part of Cross' Mills property. Courtesy of Charlestown History, 1983.

In 1913 the Christian Endeavor Society of the Cross' Mills Baptist Church voted to form a library association and to establish a library. With the proceeds of a lawn party they purchased a "low hole" next to the church, deeded the property to the newly-formed association, and gave their energies to providing a free library and reading room for the village of Cross Mills and vicinity.

The Cross' Mills Public Library, as the association became known, built and furnished a new library building for \$627.05. Five hundred books were collected for the shelves. Financial support soon came both from the state and from the Town of Charlestown. Imagine stepping into a library with

kerosene lights and wood heat in winter. Miss Mary Church, the first librarian, would keep track of an average of 20 books taken out each week. She would check to be sure that each patron was at least 12 years old and had paid the \$1 yearly fee before being allowed to borrow books each Friday afternoon when the library was open for its regular 2-hour period.

Electric lights, an open evening each month for quiet games, books, and storytelling, and a woodshed were added in 1919, at the beginning of Bessie Cross Gavitt's 40-year tenure as a librarian. Other changes followed: a children's addition, many more books, and greatly increased circulation. But opening hours remained at 2 per week.

When Lillian Grinnell became librarian in 1960, land was willed to the library. Soon after a major addition made space for 10,000 books, Meredith Anderson became the fourth librarian in 1969. Then in 1974 Ann Crawford became the first librarian with a master's degree in library science. Services increased to include preschool story hours, weekly movie programs, musical events, special

exhibits, summer programming for children, and guest speakers on a wide variety of topics of public interest. Book holdings increased to 30,000 and circulating items included puzzles, filmstrips, VCR tapes, puppets, games, records, CDs, and AV equipment.

The town council appointed a liaison to the library board of trustees for the first time in 1983. This was Donna Walsh, who by an interesting coincidence is one of two women to serve as state senator and as library trustee. In 1928 one of the founders, Lulu Mowry Schlesinger, had become the state's first woman senator.

1986 saw the completion of an extensive library addition. Then in 1991 the lower level was completed, to become the only part of the building dedicated to unnamed honorees: the volunteers who have played an invaluable role in the history of the library from the beginning. Finally, in 1992 Cross' Mills public Library joined the Cooperating Libraries Automated network (CLAN) and entered the world of computers and

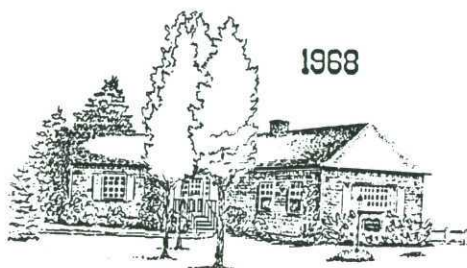


1996

A HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

Before 1913 there was no public library building in Charlestown. Then the Christian Endeavor Society of the Cross Mills Baptist Church gave land to their newly-formed Cross' Mills Public Library. The lot was between a quarter and a third of an acre, which was 40 % of the church's entire parcel. What is now the periodicals room was the first building, erected

The Cross' Mills Spread Will Continue On The Next Page



Cross' Mills Public Library (Continued)

with funds raised for that purpose. The \$627.05 edifice was opened for inspection in August, 1914.

The first library expansion occurred in 1933 when a children's room was built by volunteer labor. The secretary of the board paid for the lumber in memory of her first son, who had died at age six. The addition cost \$325.

Thirty-five years later a 20' x 60' wing (like the original, incorporated into the present building) was dedicated. Generous benefactors and strenuous fund raising provided the \$32,212.91 needed, with about half coming from state and federal sources.

The 1986 expansion to the present configuration cost \$309,184, leaving the lower level unfinished. Five years and \$101,756 later saw completion, including the elevator. These funds came from benefactors, as well as from state and federal construction grants, with the Champlin Foundations and the Charlestown Historical Society playing a significant role. Air conditioning was added in 1996.

Charlestown taxpayers note that while about one cent of the local tax dollar goes for operating the library, no local taxes have ever been spent for capital improvements.



**A CURRENT PHOTO OF
CROSS' MILLS PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

RILA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in RILA is open to everyone:

- Library personnel
- Media specialists
- Library trustees
- Friends of the Library
- Students
- Educators
- Libraries
- Organizations
- Businesses

Benefits of membership include:

- Attendance at RILA's Spring Conference, which educates and motivates members by presenting speakers, discussions, and workshops on diverse topics.
- A subscription to the *RILA Bulletin*, which features articles on library news, issues, and developments in Rhode Island and surrounding New England library communities.
- Networking — the chance to interact with others who have similar interests and concerns about libraries. Meet notable librarians, information and media specialists, educators, and authors.
- The opportunity to become active on RILA Committees, which address a variety of library-related issues and concerns.
- A RILA LISTSERV, through which members can carry out discussions and share ideas, questions, and concerns with other RILA members.

To join RILA, please print out a membership form and mail it to RILA at P.O. Box 7858, Warwick, RI 02887-7578.

* * * *

RILA Membership Form

Name _____

Work information:

Position _____

Library _____

ILL Delivery Code (if any) _____

Preferred Mailing Address:

Phone and E-mail Information:

Preferred phone (to be printed in the Directory) _____

Is this home ____ or work ____ ? (check one)

FAX _____

E-mail _____

Are you interested in any committees? If so, which ones?

Dues Schedule

Dues cover membership from January through December. Please check the category that applies:

Make check payable to RILA and mail to:

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RILINK: The Missing Link? Cont.

Shea High School in Pawtucket
South Kingstown Junior High School
South Kingstown High School
Smithfield High School
West Warwick Junior-Senior High School

Eight schools have applied for membership in 2000, and more are expected.

Each RILINK member has agreed to pay \$1500 annually toward operating costs. One of the biggest concerns for RILINK is hosting the union database. Right now it is hosted by the vendor, Follett Software Company, and is updated only once a year when new schools are merged. Bringing it to Rhode Island will mean that the catalog could have "continuous updates," and that cataloging brief and incomplete or incorrect records could be done on a regular basis.

You can find out more about RILINK by visiting the web site at:
www.ri.net/RILINK/homepage.html

President's Message (Cont.)

Massachusetts before settling in Providence, Rhode Island, where they operated a business school.

Those who remember the pair describe Ms. Wales as a tiny, quiet woman with spark, while Ms. Johnson is described as a large, straightforward woman with her own opinions. In retrospect they seem to have been two opposing

Reminder:

RILA Annual Conference
June 1-2, 2000
Johnson & Wales University
Library
Providence, RI
Save the Date!

cosmic forces who worked well together. Former students agree that the women would never have dreamt that their school would become the Johnson & Wales University of the 21st century.

Continuing in my attempt to create a mental image of the Misses Johnson & Wales, I now refer to some of their writings from student days at the normal school. In a geography course description, Mary Wales states that "every school should have a garden spot in which the children could work and study. But if we cannot get out into nature, we must bring nature into the classroom." Further on she suggests "the use of gems of poetry" as a means of introducing the study of nature to the children. As a librarian I was especially moved by her

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President's Message (Cont.)

conclusion that "this affords excellent opportunity to cultivate a taste for choice literature that will do much toward shaping a child's whole life." Here, here.

In sharp contrast to the sensitivity of Mary Wales, Gertrude Johnson was very forthright. In one of her orations of 1895, entitled "The Passing of Superstitions," she wrote, "The existence of these [myths and superstitions] has depended largely on the degree of education and of civilization existing in the nation." She goes on to explain that those lacking in education believe popular superstitions. She concludes "That this is the most enlightened period in the world's history is clearly shown by the gradual disappearance of

these superstitions."

So, here we are, at the beginning of the 21st Century (actually, the end of the 20th, if you calculate properly), and I have to agree that "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

As Ms. Wales suggested, our society is still "cultivating" literacy with such slogans as "Those who read, succeed."

On the other hand, you have to agree that the mega "Y2K" bug frenzy quickly converted into the mega myth of the era. Many individuals will quickly admit that in this day and age, they are not superstitious. Well, count me in with the rest! I am not superstitious either; but just in case, before I forget, I should close my umbrella drying out on the floor next to my desk.

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